

Menard Electric Cooperative's

Connect to MEC



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Youth to Washington Tour

Katie Evans of Arenzville and Austin Weidhuner of Greenview represented Menard Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 14-21. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with Congressman Aaron Schock and were among 65 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,520 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

To find out more about the tour go to www.youthtour.coop or www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington.



Pictured from left: Evans, Congressman Schock and Weidhuner.



Visit us at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur

Visit the Touchstone Energy exhibit in the Varied Industries Tent at this year's Farm Progress Show in Decatur.

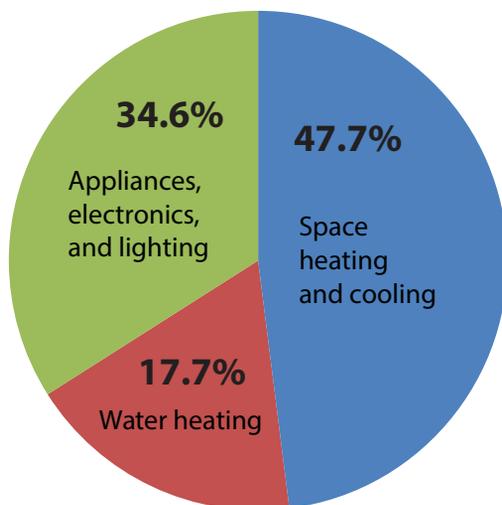
Check out our "Energy Efficiency Wall" to learn about energy efficiency measures that will save you money each month on your energy bill, and to pick up a free gift. Cooperative members who present their Coop-Connections card receive a special gift.

Check out Prairie Farmer Magazine to learn more about the 2013 Farm Progress Show or visit www.farmprogressshow.com.



How Americans Use Energy

New data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that heating and cooling still accounts for the largest amount of electricity consumption in American homes. But as we use more and more electronic gadgets, that segment is closing the gap.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



*In observance of Labor Day, the cooperative office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 2nd.*

Home Weather Sealing and Insulation

Get started finding low-cost solutions that could save money on your monthly electric bill by first asking yourself a simple question: Does my home feel drafty and cold in the winter, or stuffy and hot in the summer? If yes, then it probably experiences air leakage.

To track down where those spots are, start with the usual suspects—like damaged seals around doors and windows. If you see daylight or feel air, then apply caulk and weather stripping to keep outdoor air where it's supposed to be.

But don't forget spots you might not immediately think of, like recessed canister lights and electrical outlets. Outlet insulation kits can be purchased for as little as \$2, and you can fix up your canister lights with some caulk around the edges.

Also look where walls meet the ceiling. Cobwebs mean you've got drafts.

Next, peek into the attic and inspect the crawl space or basement for sufficient insulation—how much you need depends on your climate. Check out the insulation calculator from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory at www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html. Keep in mind insulation won't do its



job well if you don't have a proper air barrier working in tandem. That means all joints and cracks must be sealed between your living space and insulation.

To learn more about ways to reduce your electric bill, visit www.togetherwesave.com.

Source: Auditing Energy: Small Measures, Real Savings by Magen Howard, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

For Sale

2003 Chevrolet K2500HD with utility bed.
5-speed. Air cond. 4-wheel drive.
155,968 miles. As is.

Truck bed for 2013 Ford F250. As is.

Sealed bids due at the cooperative office on Friday, August 16.

5 ways to stay safe this harvest



1. Keep farm equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.
2. Use a spotter when moving large equipment near power lines and be aware of higher antennas on large modern tractors.



3. Use care when raising augers or truck beds. Lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest level before moving. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result.
4. Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
5. Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins. Be careful not to raise equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines.

Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at www.menard.com or contact our office.

Present were Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Kim Smith, Mgr of Acct&Information System Chris Hinton and Directors Gary Martin, Jerry Brooks, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Donald Mcmillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate and Steven Worner.

Hinton reviewed RUS Form 990 and 990T for 2012. Hinton and Frasco discussed repricing CoBank loan due January 4, 2014. After discussion Frasco was given discretion by Board to proceed with repricing.

Frasco 124 new irrigations had been completed, with 15 remaining. He advised that he had been contacted by Representatives from ICG and that they believed they were eligible for a refund of the State utility tax they had paid. Manager Frasco discussed their

concerns.

Frasco advised that reps. from Prairie Power would be at the co-op to discuss the installation of fiber optics.

He discussed changes to procedures of the General Office and advised the co-op would go to weekly collections, as may be needed of past due accounts, rather than monthly collections of past due accounts. The co-op will do more complete credit check on new members to obtain a general credit score for determining the amount of a deposit. The co-op would also turn over bad debts to the collection agency, at a quicker rate.

Frasco reviewed General Retirement of Capital Credits in 2013 for part of the 1986 allocation. For the year, the total retirement for all members equaled \$249,692.98.

Year to date margins were \$1,455,498 compared to \$ 106,075 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of April was 34.94% and the number of members served was 10,644 compared to 10,577 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of April was \$ 40,332,260 compared to \$ 37,831,286 last year. The co-op continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Martin reported on Prairie Power, Inc plans to move the headquarters from Jacksonville to Springfield. Goetsch reported on the tour of the Prairie State Plant. Martin advised 2012 allocation of patronage capital to the co-op from Prairie Power equaled \$1,347,414.00.

Beyond the BULB



A monthly tip to help you use electricity safely and efficiently. See safeelectricity.org and togetherwe-save.com for more ways to go "beyond the bulb" to keep your family using energy wisely every day.

Cooking

August 10th is labeled both National Lazy Day and National S'mores Day. Sounds like a good day to cook a simple meal outdoors; it's probably too hot to cook indoors anyway. But unfortunately not every meal can be made outside this summer.

For safe cooking indoors: check appliance cords for fraying, plug only one high-wattage appliance into an outlet (like a microwave or toaster oven), and know the location of a working fire extinguisher.

For better efficiency: use the right sized burner, keep burner pans shiny, defrost in the fridge, don't preheat unless baking, keep the oven door closed, and use your slow cooker, toaster oven and microwave when you can.